

TAILON

NEWS MAGAZINE

November 2009



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VOLUME XVII ISSUE II

TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE

In This Issue:

Pg. 4

Art Gallery Theft



Pg. 5

Zombies Take
Over The Plaza



Pg. 6

Personal Experiences



Special Edition

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We're always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad.

Ben Kopp and Charlotte Bishop.

kopp154945@avila.edu

bishop185740@aviila.edu

Cover Design: Nicole Drew

Co-Editor in Chiefs

Ben Kopp
Charlotte Bishop

Layout Editors

Nicole Drew
David Fuller

Copy Editor

Valerie Reed

Advertising Team

Advertisement Director
Emilee Bilyeu
Advertisement Assic. Director
Valerie Reed

Talon Online & Talon uReport

Shawna Downing
Tara Haskamp
Brian Garrison
Emilee Bilyeu

Talon.tv

Javier Kelty
Jermaine Thomas
Trisha Simmons
Valerie Reed
Mike B. Rollen

Pod Cast

Mike B. Rollen

Writers

Faye Gipe
Mario Ausiello
Brian Garrison
Tara Haskamp
Peter Kondracki

I-Journalism

Benjamin Auxier
Mary Brand
Chung Chang
Lynette Galvan
Jason Hasse
Emily Heid
Elizabeth Nelson
Conor Riley
Austin Stockard
Cory Stuefer
Shawn Sullivan
Sarah Wiks

Business Manager
Janine Urness

Faculty Advisor
Joseph Snorgrass

Less Mazes More Zombies

By Liz Nelson

This year Avila will not be holding the annual haunted maze. The maze has been in the Ridgway fourth floor lounge for the past few years but this year, the lounge will be hosting Zombie Captain Scurvy Jones presents: The Luau of Doom! The event will be full of Halloween games, food, and prizes. This however is not the only event that Avila University will be hosting for the holiday of Halloween. There will be a separate event every day of the week leading up to Halloween. Monday there will be the Eat N' Treat where you can go grab some free Halloween candy and enter to win tickets to Worlds of Fun or the KC Haunted Houses in the Marian Lounge between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tuesday there will be the Monster Smash in the Marian Lounge from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. where you can bowl pumpkins and enter to win more prizes. Also on Tuesday there is pumpkin carving in the Marian Lounge between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Wednesday there will be the Howling Dessert Bar in the Marian Lounge between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. where you can enjoy cakes, pies, and cider while watching a scary movie. Thursday is Zombie Captain Scurvy Jones presents: The Luau of Doom! It is in the Ridgway 4th floor lounge from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Finally, on Friday there will be Prizes in the Business Office from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Avila University is ready for the Halloween festivities to begin.

“Project M Hopes to Move a Mountain to Avila”

By Ben Kopp

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to understand and use your fullest potential at once? Have you ever tried to build yourself up to that level, but decided that it was just too much time and effort? One project on Avila’s campus, “Project M,” challenges the community to do just that during the week of November 2-7, and without the long hours! Each person who has an opportunity to participate is simply

asked to stop for a few seconds each day, accept, and pass an item along. Although this event sounds as if people would see the same thing every day, each part of the event is a different lesson with an entirely different way of doing these three things. Based on two popular concepts, Project M hosts options for members of the community to grow in a secular manner, spiritual way, or both. The first concept, Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, helps people reach self-actualization by

fulfilling a stage of the pyramid each day. They will go through fulfilling their basic needs, sense of security, belonging, self-esteem, and finally their key to self-actualization. On the other hand, people are also invited to join the spiritual route of Matthew 25:35-40. In symbolic ways, participants are asked to nourish the hungry and thirsty, clothe the naked, visit prisoners, heal the ill, and accept the strangers of the world for they are. Be sure to check out Project M and start your path toward your fullest potential!

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AW MAN... NOT AGAIN

The Crucible to Catch Avila's Eye

By Anna Scott

"A man may think God sleeps, but God sees everything, I know it now. I beg you, sir, I beg you—see her what she is.." Only one of many famous quotes from the very popular and widely known play *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. In the little Puritan town of Salem, Massachusetts, mischief seems to be stirring in the woods as young girls go dancing in the forest with their slave, Tituba. They are caught and ever since are accused of witchery and trickery. The girls' ring leader, Abigail Williams—Sophomore Sarah McGuire—when confronted, claims nothing more than pure dancing.

With deceit, deception, and a little bit of hateful love stirring in the air, the cast work hard each night, bringing these feelings full-force. This will be a wonderful show to attend. It will surely be full of intensity and excitement. Co-directing the show is our very own Robert Faulk with Gene Mackey and Assistant Director Noelia Rothery, so it is sure to be very good. The show opens on Thursday, November 19th at 8:00 p.m. and will run that Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. as well as Sunday the 22nd at 2:00 p.m. Be sure to not miss your chance to see this play. It will be worth all the effort in showing up and planting yourself in one of the comfortable seats of Goppert Theatre. Enjoy the Show!

Thornhill's Lost Zephraphone: Yet another Attack

By Brian Garrison

Please Help Find The Missing Zephraphone

CALL:

Campus Safety (816) 501-2466
Hotline (816) 501-2499



Once again the beautiful Thornhill Art Gallery becomes the back drop of a heinous crime. Covered by the darkness of night, a group of vandals snuck onto campus.

Once the coast was clear, they slithered along the Dallavis wall until they arrived at their target. Before you know it they were gone and Avila University was left wondering what had just happened.

Once faculty arrived Wednesday, October 7th, they discovered the Zephraphone that stood outside of Dallavis was gone. Campus Safety was immediately notified and reviewed the video surveillance. The video revealed multiple people running straight to the Zephraphone, picking it up, and running towards Oak Street.

Tim Bosler, Campus Safety Manager said, "While it was hard to tell if they were students here, it was obvious that this was planned out."

This incident was like a double whammy for artist Juniper Tangpuz. Not only was his art stolen, but this is the second time that his art was tampered with while on show at Avila.

Tangpuz expressed, "I am upset that my art was taken. The Zephraphone is an edition of one. He is the only Zephraphone that exists in the world."

If it's even possible to imagine the story has yet another turn for the worse, Tangpuz's show was no longer on exhibit at Avila. The Zephraphone was a gift that he had allowed Avila to keep on display in the courtyard.

Tangpuz said, "I still believe Avila is a great school. What I would hope is that all of the student body recognizes the value of having a contemporary art space at the University. It is something that deserves to be respected and the artist that show and bring new ideas and experiences are respected as well."

Now that multiple criminal activities have occurred this year at the new Thornhill Art Gallery, Tangpuz pointed out that more actions need to be taken to protect this gallery and the art that it holds. His plea did not fall upon deaf ears.

Mr. Bosler pointed out that a new camera is being put in place to better cover the gallery, but he also pointed out students and those who are on campus need to help out.

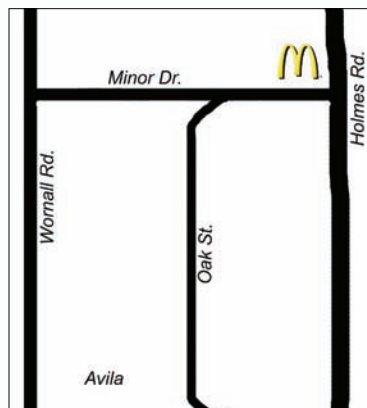
Bosler stated, "Students need to stay attentive and take note of anything that seems suspicious or out of place."

If you know the whereabouts of the Zephraphone, or have any information please contact Campus Safety at (816) 501-2466, or the anonymous hotline (816) 501-2499.



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Zombies wander KC Plaza in benifit

By Charlotte Bishop

Zombies are all the rage right now. Movies, comics, survival guides, Facebook quizzes – you name it, there's a zombie version (or four) of it. But who would have thought of creating a charity event using the legions of the undead?

A group of people who love zombies came together and organized this event on October 10th. The Zombie Walk happens twice a year and benefits Uplift, an organization that works to help poverty-stricken families in different communities. Each participant in the event is required to bring either five non-perishable food items or a monetary donation.

Then, as the volunteers load the donations into their van, everyone liberally splashes themselves with fake blood and begins to moan and groan. In this fashion, a huge group of zombies begins walking on Kansas City sidewalks and streets, growling at pedestrians and begging for brains. Led by a lady with a brain on a stick, the zombies wander the Plaza and don't get arrested for bothering people and blocking the sidewalks.

There are Pope zombies, Michael Jackson zombies, dog zombies, Disney zombies (courtesy of my friend Clare and I), and all sorts of creative ideas running around. Check out the next one in May!



Haunted by costume prices; how college students make costumes on a dime

By Valerie Reed

It's that time of year again for pumpkins, candy corn, haunted houses, black cats, and, of course, costumes. But with bank accounts running low, who has 50 to 100 dollars to spend on repetitive and often cheaply made costumes?



If the only idea that jumps out at you is a ghost costume made from a bed sheet, don't worry. There is a lot of inspiration. Creativity is not a necessity for homemade or inexpensive costumes; celebrities, animals, characters, products, jobs, injuries,

or just being goofy can all easily be created into a costume. Some of the easiest costumes to put together are made with street clothes such as a tourist, a hippie, or a bum. Miss America and prom queens are easy to create from past formal dresses.

So what do you do if you stand in front of your closet full of clothes and nothing jumps out at you? Try going to thrift or vintage stores, like Emilee Bilyeu. "I have very rarely bought a costume from a costume shop. I usually buy pieces from vintage shops or second hand shops and piece a costume together," Bilyeu said, "I have made a few of my costumes from scratch. One year I made a slice of watermelon costume." Bilyeu is a senior here at Avila.

A fun, cheap, spooky costume is super simple. Basically, the only thing needed to be scary is props and makeup. Think of horror films, axes are used a lot; these can be made with foil. Use costume makeup and paint for gory effects. A

victim of a horror film can also be created with just makeup and ripped clothing.

Cardboard boxes are very versatile for a goofy costume. The bigger the size of the box, the better, to ensure there is enough room and enough surface area for detailing. These boxes can be made into anything from a wine box to a washing machine to a die.

For a sultry, sexy homemade costume, lingerie is inappropriate. Today, just about any costume has a "sexy" version; referee, bumblebee, cop, and so on. A Daisy Duke inspired costume can be easily made with clothes already in your closet; short shorts and a button down shirt, and, of course, lots of makeup.

After all, it is Halloween; time to have fun and be scared. Just do not let the prices of expensive novelty shops frighten you. Be innovative and create your own. If a bed sheet is still the only item you have, update it by making it into a toga!

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Personal Experiences

Going across the Pond, Preparing to see the world

Rome if You Want To: An Experience of a Lifetime

By Corrie Mitchell

In the summer of 2009, the Avila University Choir went on a tour through Italy. They visited Rome, Venice, Verona, Florence, and Sienna. The choir had the chance to visit some of the most ancient highlights of Italy such as the Coliseum, the Vatican, and the Ruins. They also had the experience of being conducted by Randall Stroope.

During a rehearsal, Stroope announced that he would be having auditions for one of his pieces that he wrote himself: Caritas de Amor. I decided that I would audition because the more experience I get, the better I will become. After he listened to all of the girls audition, he pointed at me and said: "I am going to have you sing the solo in the Vatican". I felt like I was going to faint because it was my first time in a foreign country and getting to sing in one of the most famous landmarks is a humongous opportunity. I was so stunned, I could not even speak, which is highly unusual for me. I asked myself, why out of all these very talented musicians would he pick me?

On the day of the recital, I have never been so nervous in my entire life. I have sung solos for concerts and other organizations, but never in a foreign country. My palms were so sweaty and my whole body was shaking. I was so emotional because I could not call my family to tell them the news. As the recital began, I put all of my nerves aside and I let the words just come out of my mouth. It is amazing how only a few words of a song can have such a big influence on one's life. I did not want this experience to end. By the time the recital was over, I was crying like a maniac, but they were "happy tears". I do not think that I will ever have an experience like this again, so I embraced it as much as I could.

If you have any other questions on my experience in Italy, let me know and I will tell you.



By: Emilee Bilyeu

Avila Students are you ready for a culture shock? This past Spring I was able to have the experience of a life time. I spent half the year living in the Netherlands or Holland which is the country of the color orange, cheese, tulips, and the famous wooden clogs. The Netherlands is located on the North Sea bordering Germany, Belgium, and very close neighbors of the United Kingdom.

Before I ever came to Avila I wanted to study abroad and travel to a new part of the world. If you are considering traveling and having a cultural experience in a totally different environment there are many questions that I'm sure come to mind. What should I expect if I consider this chance? Where would I go? Will my credits from my classes transfer? What if I don't speak the native language?

What to expect when studying abroad? Expect to be thrown into a culture that you would be willing to accept, learn, and live along side with. Be willing to meet people from all over the world. Be ready to try new experiences, food, languages, and alternative types of transportation. You will learn to rely on technology and explore how to use alternative ways of communicating with your family and friends back home. I was able to video chat as well as call landlines and cell phones with an online global social network called, Skype. Skype is much like Yahoo video chat, and MSN messenger. Skype provides a free alternative to staying connected with your family while over seas, all you need is a webcam and a computer. Lastly, expect to have fun!

Avila offers an exchange program with two different universities that allows students to fulfill a foreign exchange program. I chose to study abroad with our affiliate, Webster University. Webster offers six different locations to study at for your semester of choice including, Austria, China, Thailand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. I chose to study in the Netherlands because it was a central starting point to seeing most of Western Europe.

With the affiliation of both Webster University and Butler University the courses you would be enrolled in and complete will transfer as academic credits towards your graduation requirements from Avila. Course choices can all be discussed with your Academic advisor, if this is something that triggers your interest. I was able to complete some of my major requirements to graduate while I studied at the University of Webster: Leiden. I took classes such as Photography, Writing for Media, Communications Theory, and Web Design. Depending on where you study can determine what courses are offered. When taking classes at a foreign college the classes were arranged differently, Webster offered eight week accelerated courses that met fewer times a week for longer periods of time. This allowed for me to set up my schedule to travel as well as get the full study abroad experience.

Prior to arriving in the Netherlands I spent a lot of time on the internet researching everything I could find about the Netherlands and the Dutch culture. I found out that in Holland most people speak multiple languages. They speak Dutch, French, German, and English. Having only knowledge of one of those languages I decided to start to learn the native tongue, Dutch. Now, all of Webster University's campuses are completely English speaking, no need to worry. All the faculty, staff, and students speak English. Now most of the students and faculty I came in contact with during my tour spoke multiple languages which are part of their culture as well as the experience.

Making the decision to travel and live in a completely foreign country in my mind was the scariest thing I had decided to endure. Returning from my trip I have now changed that opinion and think it was the most eye opening experience and fulfilling choice I have made in my life up to this point. I was able to learn more about many different cultures while I lived over seas. I had the ability to travel all over; including the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, London, Czech Republic, Italy, and Ireland. Traveling has broadened my outlook on different cultures as well as opportunities I may take on in the future.



Shape Avila Students

The KKK Still Kicking? No Way!

By Faye Gipe

As many Avila students saw in the most recent production of Avila’s theatre company, *The Foreigner*, there were a lot of references the Ku Klux Klan. There was even a scene that depicted many of the Klan members in their ceremonial robes attacking the occupants of the bed and breakfast where the play was set. I was on the costume crew and did a small amount of work on the KKK robes before the production took place. In order to make these robes more authentic, the costume designer, Jillian Foster, used fabric paper, on which she printed the patches that members of the Klan have worn. I asked her why we didn’t save ourselves the trouble and just buy the patches from a craft store or online and I was thoroughly shocked by her answer.

“Well, we don’t actually want to support the Klan,” she said. “All the profits from the patches would go straight to them.”

While I had heard of the Klan’s continued existence, I had never thought they would still be active, at least, not in the same form as what I had seen in my history books. Although the Larry Shue play we were working on had been written in the 1980s, I had just assumed that it was either metaphorical for our assumptions and anxieties against people who are different, or it was referencing the Klan’s activity in the ‘80s, in the South. While they may both be true, the former is fairly abstract while the latter is highly limited to a specific place and time that would certainly have no bearing on our Midwestern society today. I was wrong. Shortly after having this conversation about the Klan, I went on a trip to East St. Louis to a community center called the Christian Activities Center (CAC) where area children can go after school to use the gymnasium and get free tutoring. This was soon after the Bellville West bus incident, occurring on September 25th, in which two African American students were captured on tape assaulting another student who happened to be Caucasian. This was initially seen by members of the community as racially motivated violence and it was reported to me, by members of CAC management that the KKK was staging a protest in Bellville over the incident, despite the fact that later evidence proved the actions of the bullies were not racially motivated. Again I was bewildered, and this time furious. St. Louis is not so distant from Avila and indeed many of the college’s students call the city home. I wanted to do something about this protest, maybe even try to stop it or somehow tell those involved how wrong they were for their views against people who aren’t like them. The religious group affiliated with the CAC, including members of its management and staff, also held protest, a silent one against the Klan’s values and continued existence and perhaps for now, just as in 1960s, with such figures as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, these non-violent forms of retaliation will have to be enough.

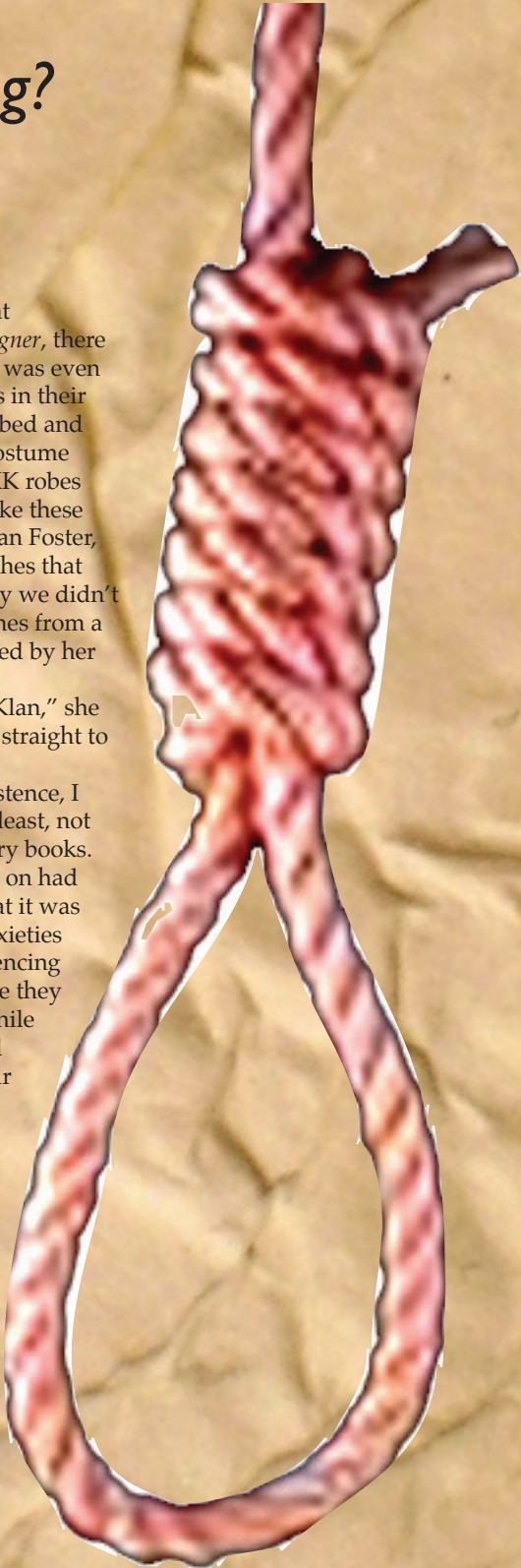
Abandon All Hope, Ye Who Take Entrance Exams

By Ben Kopp

I have had some experience with helping plan school events around entrance exams, but it never really occurred to me how many of these one may need and how much time it takes to prepare for two of these tests. These are the tests that one should prepare for even in both high school and college. They tell admissions representatives nothing more than your ability to take a standardized test, yet just one of these exams can account for nearly half of the decision in whether or not your application moves on to higher review. By the time you get done with one test in a semester, you will feel mental exhaustion. By the second test, expect to question all of your motivations for doing anything. I do not even want to think of what a person feels like after a third exam.

On the other hand, my third exam of the semester will be arriving soon. I took one at the end of September, one in the middle of October, and this third test will be in the first half of November. Naturally, all three are over different materials, and studying for each one is a sentence in Hell. This is especially true if any of your plans are delayed or begin late.

A bit of advice to anyone who has the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) in their future—and ask your advisor if you are not sure: study your vocabulary to the extreme while taking College Algebra and schedule your test day for a couple weeks after the final while your wits are still sharp.



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